

Briefing Sheet for the Chairman, JCS, on a memorandum by the Director, Joint Staff, to be considered at the JCS meeting, 29 September 1961.

Subject: DJSM 1177-61, Rotation of the Berlin Augmentation Battle Group (U)

Background - On 18 August 1961 the JCS directed USCINCEUR to move one reinforced battle group to augment the Berlin Garrison and advised him that the objective was to provide a concrete political and psychological demonstration of US attitude toward the Berlin situation. The augmentation force was moved to Berlin on 20 August 1961.

- On 25 September 1961 USCINCEUR, assuming the augmentation would be required for an indefinite period, requested authority:

a. For training and morale reasons, to rotate Seventh Army battle groups into and out of Berlin every two or three months with the outgoing and incoming battle groups moving on successive days.

b. To publicly announce in a routine manner the rotation policy at a time he deems appropriate in order to prevent rumors and reaffirm the US intention to maintain augmentation forces in Berlin as long as required.

- In view of political implications the rotation of battle groups should be brought to the attention of the President.

Current Paper - TAB A - Contains a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense to include a proposed message to USCINCEUR.

- The memorandum outlines USCINCEUR's proposal, states the JCS support his views and requests The Secretary of Defense obtain approval for dispatch of a message which approves USCINCEUR's plan for release of information and rotation of battle groups, and requests that JCS and DOD be informed in advance of the dates of execution and the public announcement to be released.

Service Comments - Lack of time precluded formal Service coordination.

Comment and Recommendations - It is recommended that the paper be supported as written.

Approved by Edwin H. Burba for Director, J-3

Opinion as to Recommendations:

Director, Joint Staff _____ (Concur) (Nonconcur)

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